

In the prosecution of this application applicants have referred to the book "Copper Oxide Superconductors" by Charles P. Poole, Jr., Timir Datta and Horacio A. Farach, John Wiley & Sons (1988). This book shall be referred to herein as Poole et al.. The preface of this book says "[t]his volume reviews the experimental aspects of the field of oxide superconductivity with transition temperatures from 30 K to above 123 K, from the time of its discovery by Bednorz and Muller in April 1986 until a few months after the award of the Nobel Prize to them in October, 1987. " This passage is referring to applicants and their paper referred to at page 6 of applicants' specification. This book acknowledges that applicants are the discoverers of the field of high temperature superconductivity. (See Attachment A)

Applicants note that it is generally recognized that it is not difficult to fabricate transition metal oxides and in particular copper metal oxides that are superconductive after the discovery by applicants that transition metal oxides are high T_c superconductors. Chapter 5 of the Poole et al. book entitled Preparation and Characterization of Samples" states at page 59 "[c]opper oxide superconductors with a purity sufficient to exhibit zero resistivity or to demonstrate levitation (Early) are not difficult to synthesize. We believe that this is at least partially responsible for the explosive worldwide growth in these materials. " Poole et al. further states at page 61 "[i]n this section three methods of preparation will be described, namely, the solid state, the coprecipitation, and the sol-gel techniques (Hatfi). The widely used solid-state technique permits off-the-shelf chemicals to be directly calcined into superconductors,

and it requires little familiarity with the subtle physicochemical process involved in the transformation of a mixture of compounds into a superconductor." Poole et al. further states at pages 61-62 "[I]n the solid state reaction technique one starts with oxygen-rich compounds of the desired components such as oxides, nitrates or carbonates of Ba, Bi, La Sr, Ti, Y, or other elements. ... These compounds are mixed in the desired atomic ratios and ground to a fine powder to facilitate the calcination process. Then these room-temperature-stable salts are reacted by calcination for an extended period (~20 hr) at elevated temperatures (~900°C). This process may be repeated several times, with pulverizing and mixing of the partially calcined material at each step." This is generally the same as the specific examples provided by applicants and as generally described at pages 8, line 19, to page 9, line 5, of applicants' specification which states "The methods by which these superconductive compositions can be made can use known principles of ceramic fabrication, including the mixing of powders containing the rare earth or rare earth-like, alkaline earth, and transition metal elements, coprecipitation of these materials, and heating steps in oxygen or air. A particularly suitable superconducting material in accordance with this invention is one containing copper as the transition metal." (See Attachment A)

Consequently, applicants have fully enabled high TC transition metal oxides and their claims.

In view of the changes to the claims and the remarks herein, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the above-identified application. If the Examiner

wishes to discuss the application further, or if additional information would be required, the undersigned will cooperate fully to assist in the prosecution of this application.

Please charge any fee necessary to enter this paper to deposit account 09-0468.

If the above-identified Examiner's Action is a final Action, and if the above-identified application will be abandoned without further action by applicants, applicants file a Notice of Appeal to the Board of Appeals and Interferences appealing the final rejection of the claims in the above-identified Examiner's Action. Please charge deposit account 09-0468 any fee necessary to enter such Notice of Appeal.

Respectfully submitted

Daniel P. Morris
Reg. No. 32,053

IBM Corporation
Intellectual Property Law Dept.
P.O. Box 218
Yorktown Heights, N.Y. 10598
(914) 945-3216